

## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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- *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, a national online network of lessons learned and best practices for emergency services and homeland security officials.

### Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Leaders Attend National Leadership Conference

On April 20-22, 2005, Medical Reserve Corps representatives from Region VII, along with their counterparts from across the nation, participated in the third annual Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership Conference in San Francisco, CA. The conference featured presentations on national programs that may impact Medical Reserve Corps units, such as:

- *Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP)*, an electronic database of health care personnel who volunteer to provide aid in an emergency. An ESAR-VHP System will provide for registration of health care volunteers; designation of resource types; and the emergency verification of the identity, credentials and qualifications of volunteers.
- *Federal Medical Contingency Station (FMCS)*, which are federal assets designed to provide surge medical capacity to communities overwhelmed by mass casualties; are standardized, scalable and adaptable for use across the mass casualty care continuum; can be staffed by approved personnel from any federal, state or local agency, or a combination of agencies; and employ modular configuration and are designed for rapid transportation and integration into a range of sites.



Frank Barfield, Susan Hoskins and Carmen Stanton describe the similarities and differences between urban and rural Medical Reserve Corps units

The conference also featured concurrent presentations by representatives of Medical Reserve Corps units from across the nation. Conference presenters from Region VII included:

- Susan Hoskins, Mid-America Medical Reserve Corps, and Carmen Stanton, Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps, who gave a presentation entitled *Two Corps-Same State: Urban vs. Rural-Alike or Different?*
- Ned Wright and Lisa Gibney of the Linn County Medical Reserve Corps, who gave a presentation on their unit's *Hospital Surge Capacity Emergency Program*, as well as a poster presentation on their *Medically Fragile Emergency Shelter Program*.
- Gloria Vermie and Kathy Gann, Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps, who provided a

poster presentation on their *Partnership in Action: The Medical Reserve Corps and the Local Military*.



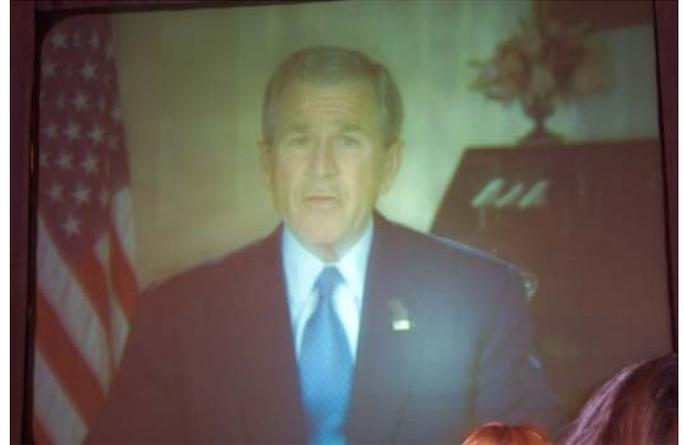
Kathy Gann, Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps, and Vice Admiral Richard Carmona, the Surgeon General, in front of the Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps poster presentation

These Medical Reserve Corps leaders gave outstanding presentations which significantly contributed to the wealth of knowledge shared at the conference.

The keynote address by the Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Richard Carmona, and a videotaped welcome by President George W. Bush were highlights of the conference. These presentations inspired and motivated the conference participants, and recognized the hard work and dedication of the nation's Medical Reserve Corps coordinators and volunteers.



The Surgeon General gives his keynote address



President Bush addresses the conference attendees by videotape

The conference also featured a regional breakout session which allowed Region VII Medical Reserve Corps to meet their colleagues from across the region, discuss issues of mutual concern, highlight their unit's activities and accomplishments, and share best practices and lessons learned.



A break in the regional breakout session



### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Offers On-Line Resources

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) offers a series of Web pages which contain considerable information on bioterrorism planning and response, including models and tools that can be used to enhance

local bioterrorism planning and response efforts. Examples of the tools and resources available on this website include:

- Readiness and Response to Public Health Emergencies: Help Needed Now From Professional Nursing Associations
- Rocky Mountain Regional Care Model for Bioterrorist Events
- Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections Site
- Community-Based Mass Prophylaxis: A Planning Guide for Public Health Preparedness
- Computer Staffing Model for Bioterrorism Response
- Evaluation of Hospital Disaster Drills: A Module-Based Approach
- Health Emergency Assistance Line and Triage Hub (HEALTH) Model
- Predicting Health Care Use Resulting From Terrorism: Tools To Aid State Planning: Summary
- Understanding Needs for Health System Preparedness and Capacity for Bioterrorist Attacks

The agency's bioterrorism planning and response resources are available at the following website: [www.ahrq.gov/browse/bioterbr.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/browse/bioterbr.htm).

## Upcoming Training and Conferences



**4<sup>th</sup> UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters:** The UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters is conducting its fourth Conference on Public Health and Disasters on May 1-4, 2005 at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, CA. According to the Center for Public Health and Disasters website, the goal of this conference is to provide a forum that promotes a dialogue and exchange of ideas between local public health departments and others involved in improving public health preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to emergencies and disasters. This multidisciplinary conference is designed to bring together academicians, researchers, practitioners and policy-

makers from public health, mental health, emergency management, the social sciences, the media and non-governmental organizations. For more information on this conference, please contact Andrea Core, (310) 794-0864 or [acore@ucla.edu](mailto:acore@ucla.edu). Information on the conference is also available at <http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/>.

**Free Web Conference on Mass Casualty Care: Overlooked Community Resources:** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is sponsoring a free Web conference on *Mass Casualty Care: Overlooked Community Resources* on May 17, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CDT. The Web conference will focus on potential resources for providing mass casualty care beyond the emergency department, such as nursing homes, former (shuttered or converted) hospitals, and primary care networks and clinics. According to AHRQ, information on how to register for the Web conference will be announced through the AHRQ Electronic Newsletter and [AHQR Bioterrorism Preparedness Listserv®](mailto:AHQR_Bioterrorism_Preparedness_Listserv@).

**Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals:** This course, sponsored by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), will be held on May 9-12, 2005 in Ashburn, VA. This course examines the principles of victim recovery and identification and the associated family assistance procedures for successfully managing mass fatality incidents involving transportation-related accidents. Course faculty includes NTSB responders, forensic scientists, and federal agency representatives with a variety of experience in mass fatality response. More information is available from the NTSB Academy at (571) 223-3907 or by e-mail at [academy@ntsb.gov](mailto:academy@ntsb.gov); <http://www.ntsbt.gov/academy>.

**2005 Public Health Preparedness and Bioterrorism Conference: *Looking Beyond Ourselves...Coordinating a Community Response*,** sponsored by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, will be held June 1-2, 2005 at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO. This conference will discuss recent emergency events and how the lessons learned can be applied to local communities. Agenda items include the SARS experience in Toronto, the Russian school siege, the psychosocial impact of the recent Tsunami disaster, agroterrorism, food supply protection efforts, laboratory capabilities, developing school emergency plans, building public and private partnerships, and addressing the needs of special populations in emergencies. More information on the conference is available at [http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT\\_Response/BTconferenceFlier.pdf](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/BTconferenceFlier.pdf). Online registration is available at [http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT\\_Response/june\\_conf05.htm](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/june_conf05.htm),

or by fax to 573-522-8636. Registration is limited to the first 350 individuals registered by the deadline of May 6, 2005.

**13th Annual VOAD Conference:** According to *Disaster Research 424*, published by the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, the National and Colorado Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) organizations are conducting their annual conference on June 21-24, 2005 in Denver, CO. The theme of this year's conference is "Ascending to New Heights" and will focus on the 2004 hurricane season; the National Response Plan; the National Incident Management System; volunteer management; donations management; government relations and legislation; emotional and spiritual care; and response, recovery and relief. More information is available from contact Cathy Kissner of COVOAD at (970) 254-1011 or VOAD at <http://www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php>.

**Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Leaders at the National Leadership Conference**



Region VII Medical Reserve Corps leaders with Commander Rob Tosatto and Grace Middleton of the national program office



Tim Newman, Reno County Medical Reserve Corps, Vice Admiral Richard Carmona



Susan Hoskins, Mid-America Medical Reserve Corps, during her presentation



The Westin St. Francis Hotel on Union Square in San Francisco

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Lisa Gibney, Ned Wright and the Linn County Medical Reserve Corps poster presentation on the county's medically fragile emergency shelter program



(L to R) Carmen Stanton, Vice Admiral Richard Carmona, Susan Hoskins and Frank Barfield



(L to R) Tisha Sinclair, Tim Newman, Commander Rob Tosatto, Gary Brown and Kathy Gann at the Region VII breakout session



Carmen Stanton, Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps, during her presentation



Lisa Gibney and Ned Wright talk to Commander Tosatto during the regional breakout session



Dr. Randy Hinrichs, Linn County Medical Reserve Corps, listens to Ned Wright's presentation on the county's hospital surge capacity emergency program

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